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THE FOURTH

PANEGYRIC,

OR

SERMON

IN HONOUR OF

ASCENSION-DAY,

Almoſt FOURTEEN HUNDRED Years old,

Of that moſt famous FATHER of the *Church*,

St. CHRYSOSTOM;

Tranſlated from the *Greek*, and *never* before publiſhed in our Language.

By the Rev. WILLIAM SCOTT, A. M.
Late *Scholar* of ETON, and TRINITY COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE.

THE SECOND EDITION.

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INSCRIPTION.

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD, RICHARD, LORD BISHOP OF LONDON, THE FOLLOWING PANEGYRIC, ON THIS SACRED AND SOLEMN FESTIVAL, OF THAT ILLUSTRIOUS FATHER OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ST. CHRYSOSTOM, WHO WAS NO LESS EMINENT FOR HIS LEARNING AND ORTHODOXY, THAN HIS PIETY, IS INSCRIB'D WITH ALL DUE REVERENCE AND RESPECT, BY HIS LORDSHIP'S

MOST DUTIFULL AND OBEDIENT

SON AND SERVANT,

WILLIAM SCOTT.

May 15, 1775.

To the READER.

AS the general INTRODUCTION *and* ADVERTISEMENT *are already in the* CHRISTMAS Sermon; *and tho' they are equally as ſuitable and highly neceſſary to all the other* FIVE: *yet the* Tranſlator *thought it* unneceſſary *to præfix them to* theſe, *and therefore begs leave to refer his Readers to them as they ſtand there, with their only making ſuch a ſmall alteration or two, as their own Good-ſenſe will naturally point out to Them, and by reading of which, They will the more readily enter into the noble and genuine* Spirit *of* theſe *that follow, and conſequently will taſte the beauties of them with a much greater degree of exactneſs and pleaſure.*

SERMON

IN HONOUR OF

ASCENSION DAY.

St. Luke, 24th Chap. 51ſt verſe.

And it came to paſs, that, while He bleſs'd Them, He was *parted* from Them, and *carry'd up* into *Heaven!*

AS We have been, of late, call'd together, my Brethren! to ſolemnize the ſacred *day* of OUR LORD's *Crucifixion*, which was ſoon ſucceeded by the joyfull *Feſtival* of his *Reſurrection*: So We are now aſſembled to celebrate with all pious and becoming Tranſports of Joy and Gladneſs, the completion of his Office (while he was here upon Earth) as MEDIATOUR between GOD and *Man*: that is, his ASCENSION into *Heaven!* By which, He took to Himſelf again

that glorious ſtate of the fullneſs of the *Godhead*, of which He was pleas'd ſo far to *empty* Himſelf, [as *St. Paul* emphatically expreſſes it] when he moſt graciouſly condeſcended to take upon Him *our* Nature! And *this* is that "great Myſtery of Godlineſs," (as he, again, expreſſes it) "GOD manifeſted in the *Fleſh!*" which We ſhall never be able to underſtand, till the *Eternal Fountain* of LIGHT has beam'd its divine influence upon our then-enlarg'd Faculties in *another* State!

The preſent ſolemnity of *our Lord's* glorious *Aſcenſion* into *Heaven* on *this* DAY, ſurpaſſeth all Human Underſtanding! it demands our utmoſt tribute of ſacred Joy and Thankſgiving to *God* for ſo great a Gift and Bleſſing, and calls forth from Us the ſtricteſt purity of Life and Converſation, in order that *our* Souls may *firſt* be purify'd, and then *aſcend* to Heaven in pious breathings after *our Lord and Saviour*, who is now "gone there before us, to præpare a *Place*" (as he told his Diſciples) for *Them*, and for all Thoſe, who *un*feignedly love and obey Him!—*To day*, a perfect reconciliation is moſt happily made between GOD and *Man!* the old enmity againſt Us by the *Devil* is diſſolv'd! and *Peace* is moſt marvellouſly return'd, which was never expected before! For Who could have hop'd that GOD ſhould become reconcil'd to *Man? not* becauſe the *Maſter* was cruel and obdurate,

rate, but becauſe the *Servant* was remiſs and negligent [in his duty!] Wouldſt Thou learn, then, [O Chriſtian] how We provok'd this mild Maſter of ours, and univerſal Lover of Mankind? You ſhould learn alſo the juſt Occaſion of his former enmity to Us; that when Thou ſeeſt how *We*, who were *Enemies* and *at variance* with Him, were honour'd, Thou mightſt be ſtruck with admiration at the Mercy and Loving-kindneſs of Him that had honour'd [Us]!—that Thou mightſt not think his divine Acts or Purpoſes could eaſily be chang'd!—that, learning the ſuperabundance of his *Grace*, thy Praiſes and Thankſgivings ſhould never ceaſe for the greatneſs of his Gifts!—He had once purpos'd the entire baniſhment of the Human Race from the Earth for their univerſal Wickedneſs, and thus ſaith *the Almighty* in the book of *Geneſis* (Chap. 6.) "For I will blot out *Man*, whom I have made, from off the face of the Earth, as his Thoughts are evil continually! for it repenteth *Me* that I have made him!" And to ſhew Thee, that yet He hateth not our Nature, but that it repented him of the Evil [intended againſt Man to deſtroy him] He ſays concerning him, "Yet his days ſhall be an *hundred* and *twenty* Years!" whereas, had He bore the leaſt enmity to him, He would not thus have diſcours'd about him! Thou haſt now ſeen HIM, who, ſo far from purpoſing to do what

He had threaten'd [i. e. to cut Man off ſo, as not to return again] that he is even making ſome apology for him, and diſcourſing with him, rather as a *Friend*, about the cauſes of the Deſtruction which was to follow! But *We*, who *then* appear'd as *un*worthy of the Earth, are *to day* [thro' the merits of our LORD's *Aſcenſion*] made Partakers of the ſame Divine Power! We [I ſay] who were *then* thought *un*worthy of any power or dominion here below, are *now* [thro' faith in CHRIST] made capable of *aſcending* to his Kingdom *above*! Amazing! that *We*, who [thro' ADAM] were thought *un*worthy of the Earth, or any rule or power over it, ſhould *now* be exalted to ſuch degrees of Glory! that the Divine Wrath ſhould not only be entirely taken away, but alſo ſhould become Peace, Harmony, and Love! Hence, *St. Paul*, moſt wonderfully, as invitingly, expreſſes himſelf to his new Chriſtian Converts among the *Corinthians* (2 Ep. 5. 20.) "For We are Embaſſadors for CHRIST, as tho' GOD did *beſeech* You by Us: We *pray* You in CHRIST's ſtead, be *Ye* reconcil'd unto GOD"!—Aſtoniſhing! that HE who had been ſo ſpitefully and cruelly treated, ſhould be *Himſelf*, ſo readily and earneſtly, *our* Interceſſour: and, like a moſt mercifull *Father*, ſo powerfully plead for *un*dutifull and rebellious Children!

His Office of MEDIATOUR with GOD for Us, is ſo highly great and marvellous, that neither

neither *Man*, *Angel*, or *Archangel* could præſume to undertake it for Us! for where GOD was offended, and *that* too ſo very juſtly and deſervedly, no *created* Being whatever could procure the pardon for Sinners, on the *Goſpel*-Terms, but GOD *Himſelf!*—*To day*, therefore, is the ſubſtance and happy completion of all theſe great, *ſpiritual* Bleſſings! —for as He has received the *firſt-fruits* of our Nature: ſo has He carry'd them up to his *Heavenly Father*; that, thro' his own powerfull *Interceſſion* and *Mediation*, the whole Lump may be cleans'd from all defilements of Sin! and, as amongſt Men, One takes a few ears of Corn, and having made a ſmall handfull, offers them up to GOD, [as an *Heave-Offering* or *Firſt-Fruits* of his Labour] by which, He is pleas'd to bleſs the whole Field: *This* alſo did CHRIST: for by *his own* Fleſh *once* offer'd up, as the *Firſt-Fruits*, has He procur'd the whole Human Race to be bleſt!

Now that Thou mayſt learn [O Chriſtian] what is meant by the *Firſt-Fruits*, attend to me! it is *not* that which firſt cometh up and buddeth forth, but what is ſtrong, ripe, and come to perfection! Thus *Moſes* ſays to the *Iſraelites* in the book of *Leviticus*,—" When Ye ſhall come into the Land which the *Lord* thy *God* hath given Thee, and ſhall have planted in it all manner of Trees for food, then ſhall Ye *not* eat of it for *three* Years: but in the *fourth* Year, it's fruit ſhall be *holy* unto

unto the *Lord*"! [i. e. by it's *Firſt-Fruits* being offer'd up as a Tribute of Praiſe and Thankſgiving!] Now the reaſon here is plain——the Tree in the *three* Years was young and tender, it wanted ſtrength: and conſequently it's Fruit wanted Age and Strength too, and therefore could not be ſo good; "But the *fourth* Year of it," ſays He, "ſhall be *holy* unto the *Lord*"! Mark the wiſdom of the great Lawgiver! He neither ſuffers the Iſraelite to eat of it, that he might not take the fruit *before* it had been offer'd up to the *Lord:* neither does he permitt it to be offer'd up, while it was yet *un*-ripe: but "let it alone, ſays he, for the *firſt three* Years, and offer it *not* up," as being *un*worthy of the honour of the Receiver! Thus You ſee what is meant by the *Firſt-Fruits: not* That which *firſt* cometh forth, or is *firſt* brought, but "That which is approv'd, by being *ripe*, and come to *perfection*"!—In like manner [my Brethren!] has OUR LORD offer'd up the *Firſt-Fruits* of our Nature to his FATHER, by his triumphant and glorious *Aſcenſion* into Heaven as on *this* DAY? which gracious Gift GOD *the Father* ſo pleaſingly accepted, both for the worthineſs of HIM who offer'd it, and for the ſpotleſs Purity of *that* which *was* offer'd, as to take it with his own hands, and place it near Him, ſaying, "Sit THOU on my right-hand"! [i. e.] "Be *now* inveſted again with all Majeſty and Power on high"!

—Now

—Now to what Nature was it, that God the *Father* ſaid, "Sit THOU on my right hand"? even to *that*, which *once* heard Him ſay, "*Duſt* Thou art, and unto *Duſt* ſhalt Thou return"!--for was it not enough to ASCEND *above* the Heavens? and to be rank'd with *Angels?* was not this *in*expreſſible honour? [No] but He *aſcended* above *Angels* and *Arch*angels, *Cherubims* and *Seraphims*, *Principalities* and *Powers*, where He was *before* [i. e. his *Incarnation*, or taking the *Human* Nature into the *Divine*] untill He had aſſum'd his Throne of Heavenly Glory!

Seeſt Thou not [O Chriſtian by the Eye of Contemplation] the Mid-way between Heaven and Earth? but rather let Us begin from beneath—Seeſt Thou not, [I ſay] how immenſe the diſtance from *Hell* to *Earth!* from *Earth* again to *Heaven!* from *Heaven* again to the *Heaven* of Heavens! from *that* to *Angels*, *Arch*-angels and all the Powers on high! and even from *Them* to the THRONE itſelf of GLORY and MAJESTY, about which They All ſtand, expreſſing the moſt profound Veneration, and "evermore ſinging Praiſes and Hallelujahs to the immaculate LAMB that *was* ſlain but *now* ſitteth upon it, even unto THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY who liveth for ever and ever"! To this immenſe ſpace and heighth hath He carry'd up our Nature! Conſider, then, *where* He was converſant with Us, and where He is now *aſcended!* neither could he *deſcend* lower, where man deſcended,

ſcended, nor *aſcend* higher, where He hath carry'd up [his Nature] again! and this, *St. Paul* plainly tells Us, [Epheſ. 4th. Chapt. 9th. and 10th. verſes] "When He *aſ-*
"*cended* up on high, He led Captivity cap-
"tive, and gave Gifts unto Men: Now,
"that He *aſcended*, what is it but that He
"alſo *de*ſcended firſt into the lower parts of
"the Earth? He that *de*ſcended, is the ſame
"alſo that *aſcended* up far above all Heavens,
"that He might fill all things"!

Learn, then again, [O Diſciple] Who it is that has thus *aſcended!* or what was the Nature, or how it came to be appointed hereunto, [long] before this [time] for I will gladly dwell with Thee upon the origin of our Birth, that We may ſee how highly We are not only honour'd, but alſo bleſt by the Mercy and Loving-kindneſs of our LORD and MASTER!—We were [originally] *Duſt* and *Aſhes!* This was not our *Crime*, but the *Weakneſs* of our Nature! Afterwards We became more fooliſh than the *Brutes!* for ſo *David* obſerves in the *Pſalms*, "*Man* being
"*without* underſtanding, is compared to the
"*Beaſts* that periſh"! But this is being *worſe* than they, even to be *compar'd* to them! as *Reaſon* ought to be our Guide!—*Holy Scripture* abounds with Obſervations of *this* ſort, to our utter ſhame and diſgrace! Thus *Iſaiah* ſays, "The *Ox* knoweth his *Owner*, and
"the *Aſs* his Maſter's *Crib*: but *Iſrael* doth

not

not know [ME!] *My* People doth *not* conſider! So again, *Jeremiah*—"Yea the *Stork*, the "*Crane*, and the *Swallow* know the times of "their coming: but *my* People doth *not* "know, [or conſider] my Judgments"! Seeſt Thou now, how We are reproached by the very *Beaſts* of the Field, and *Birds* of the Air? but obſerve our ſtupidity and ſenſeleſſneſs ſtill further! We had ſo far corrupted and deſtroy'd our Nature, though made after the *image* of GOD! that We are ſent to the very *Inſects*, to teach us our Duty to Him! Thus ſays *Solomon*, "Go to the *Ant*, "Thou *Sluggard*, conſider *her* ways, and "be wiſe! which having no guide, over-"ſeer, or ruler: provideth her meat in the "Summer, and gathereth her food in the "Harveſt"! What! are We made after the *Divine* Image, and muſt become the Diſciples of the very *Worms* and *Inſects* of the Earth? But righteous and juſt are *thy* Ways O *King* of *Heaven*! *Thou* art *not* the Author of this ſtupidity, perverſeneſs, and *in*gratitude; but *We Ourſelves*! who have thus ſo amazingly, *un*pardonably, and ſhamefully tarniſh'd the glorious luſtre of *thy* bright IMAGE. But why do I talk of *Birds*, *Beaſts*, and *Inſects*? when the *in*animate parts of the Creation are appeal'd to by *The Almighty Himſelf* as teſtimonies againſt Us!

Thus again, *Iſaiah* ſays, "Hear O *Heavens!* "and give ear O *Earth*"! for *The Lord* "hath ſpoken: I have nouriſh'd and brought "up Children, and They have rebell'd "againſt Me"! Nay, to go *one* ſtep further, which I would willingly omitt: but We became afterwards more ſtupid and ſenſeleſs than the very *Stones*! for even *they* are call'd upon as Witneſſes, and will, one day, cry out and riſe up in judgment againſt Us! Thus [once more] ſays the Prophet *Micah*, "Hear O Ye *Mountains!* and *Foundations* "of the Earth! for *the Lord* has a contro-"verſy with his *People*, and He will plead "with *Iſrael*"!

What more exceeding Wickedneſs in Man, wouldſt Thou ſeek for now, [O *Chriſtian*] when Thou ſeeſt it plainly prov'd from the Writings of the Holy Prophets and Evangeliſts, "that We are more ſtupid than the *Aſs!* more *ir*rational, or void even of Inſtinct, than the *Ox!* more *im*prudent than the *Crane*, the *Swallow*, and the *Stork!* more fooliſh than the *Ant!* and more ſenſeleſs than the very *Stones!* and yet, for *Knowledge* and *Wiſdom* We pretend to be equal to the *Serpent!* But what need I ſay any thing more of our ſtupidity and want of ſenſe, worſe than the Brutes! when *our Bleſſed Maſter*, though the greateſt Pattern

of

of Meekneſs! yet ſo very juſtly as well as ſharply, reproves the *Jews* for their extremity of willfull Blindneſs and Wickedneſs, in calling Them in *St. John's* Goſpel, "The CHILDREN of THE DEVIL"!—And yet after all—We, who, by our ſtupidity and blindneſs, had degraded Ourſelves even *beneath* the *In*animate Creatures, and made Ourſelves *inferiour* to the very loweſt, are (thro' the Mercy and Merits of OUR BLESSED SAVIOUR and REDEEMER!) *this* DAY advanc'd *far above* All! for *to day*, *Angels*, and *Arch*-angels have ſeen *that*, which, of old, They ſo earneſtly deſired to ſee! i. e. *our* Nature [ſo far qualify'd as] ſhining with ſplendour from the *Throne* of MAJESTY in *Heaven!* and beaming forth it's rays with immortal beauty and glory!

As to the *place* of his *Aſcenſion*, We find it was from Mount *Bethany*; [Matth. 28. 16. and Luke 24. 50.] Here He had appointed his true and faithful Followers, the *eleven* Apoſtles, to meet Him, in order to take his laſt Farewell! Oh Bleſt MASTER! and happy *Servants!* notwithſtanding their deep ſorrow and *in*expreſſible concern at his being parted from Them! for He bids Them "*not* be afraid, *neither* to let their Hearts be "troubled: but be of good cheer as *He* "had overcame the World"! That He

" would *not* leave Them comfortleſs, but " would ſend *the Holy Ghoſt* to comfort " Them"!—And as to the *manner* of his *Aſcenſion*, He was taken from Them and carry'd up into Heaven by A CLOUD! *not* tranſlated there like *Enoch*, nor yet in a Chariot of Fire like *Elijah*; theſe Acts were *un*worthy of HIM, who was THE KING OF HEAVEN, and THE LORD OF GLORY! but as *David* obſerves, ſpeaking of the *tremendous Majeſty* of GOD, " He made *Darkneſs* his " ſecret Place, and thick *Clouds* to cover Him"! and foreſeeing the great joy of *this Aſcenſion* for Ages before, prophetically ſays of Him, in alluſion to it, " GOD is *gone up* " with a ſong of Triumph! and THE LORD " with the ſound of the Trumpet"!

Wherefore, my Brethren! let *Us* be joyfull with Praiſes and Thankſgivings unto our *King!* who has *this* DAY *aſcended* up on high, led *Captivity* [itſelf] captive, having triumph'd over *Death*, *Hell*, and the *Grave*, and has taken poſſeſſion of *that* THRONE of *Glory* which he had *before* the World was! for if the Prophet pronounces *Them* happy, who, " becauſe They had their *Temple* in " *Sion*, and their *Dwellings* at *Jeruſalem*": how much more ought *We* to rejoice and be exceeding glad at ſeeing [by the eye of *Faith*] the *Firſt-Fruits* of our Nature [CHRIST] *taken up* into Heaven, and inveſted with all the

the Glories and Bleſſings of it!—Let Us conſider, then, the great love and mercy of *God* in his diſpenſation of *Grace* towards Us, that while We fell [thro' *Adam*] from Paradiſe by the envy and artifice of the *Devil*, and condemn'd to ſo great a Curſe, We are *now* made capable [thro' CHRIST!] of being exalted to ſo great a degree of Happineſs and Glory! how *We*, who were held *un*worthy of the *loweſt* ſeat in *Paradiſe*, and were the contempt and ſcorn, of the *Grand Enemy* of our Souls, and his *Infernal Agents*: ſhould *now* be admitted to the *higheſt* places in *Heaven*, and be made equal to the *Angels* themſelves! but this envy and artifice, contempt and ſcorn, are [moſt happily for Us thro' CHRIST!] *now* turn'd againſt *Himſelf:* ſince He ſees *that* Nature which was *once* the object of them, *now* become the worſhip and adoration of *Angels!* and wounding Us (as he thought) *in*curably, *now* ſees Us enjoying endleſs Bleſſings *above*!

Wherefore *I* alſo, [my Brethren!] exult and rejoice exceedingly *this* DAY with You All! and do moſt earneſtly exhort You to be Partakers with Me of this general Joy to all *true* Diſciples of our *Bleſſed Maſter!* That *We*, who were *not* worthy of any *power* or *dominion* here *below*, are *aſcended* unto a KINGDOM *above!* Therefore, O Man! be aſtoniſh'd with Admiration, Praiſe, and

Thanſ-

Thankſgiving, at the wiſdom and love of thy Maſter for *thy* Salvation, and glorify *Him* who has graciouſly beſtow'd ſuch Bleſſings upon Thee! for the honour of the *Gift* by far exceeds the greatneſs of the *Puniſhment!* We are fallen from *Paradiſe*, but exalted to *Heaven!* We are ſentenc'd to *Death*, but bleſs'd with *Immortality!* We have been rejected as *Aliens*, and yet He has thought it worthy to adopt Us as *Sons!* and not only Sons, but alſo *Heirs:* and not only Heirs, but alſo "*Joynt*-Heirs with CHRIST"! But when Thou heareſt of his *Aſcenſion* into Heaven, think not of any *local* departure from hence by Him! for his DIVINITY filleth *all* things, and is preſent *every where!* and therefore, let Us All, *this* DAY, celebrate in common, this conſpicuous and ſplendid Feſtival, as We have All enjoy'd, in common, theſe Gifts from Him! for as a good and mercifull *Maſter* values his true and faithfull *Servants*, ſo does OUR *Lord* and *Maſter* love Human Nature: and having ſeen it ſunk in the very Abyſs of Miſery and Woe! void of all hope of Salvation, and deſtitute of all Comfort! and therefore ſtanding in need of much help, has moſt graciouſly condeſcended to take *our* Fleſh upon Him, and it's Infirmities, (*Sin* only excepted!) and appearing thro' it, has freed Us from *Errour*, and led Us unto THE

TRUTH

TRUTH! for which gracious purpoſe He was pleas'd to *aſcend* into Heaven as on *this* DAY to ſend down "THE HOLY GHOST to "comfort Us, and guide Us unto *all* "TRUTH!"—What, therefore He purpos'd to do, *before* the World was, He has *now* moſt marvellouſly and mercifully accompliſh'd!

And why was He taken up in *Clouds*? but to ſhew plainly the very great difference between THE MASTER and *The Servant!* for when *Elijah* was taken up, it was (as I obſerved to You before) in a *fiery Chariot*: but *this* was a manner *un*ſuitable to HIS Power and Glory! but when OUR GREAT LORD and MASTER *aſcended* A CLOUD adminiſter'd to his triumphal return! "for while his Apoſtles were beholding "Him ſtedfaſtly (ſays the Evangeliſt) "He was *taken up* from Them, and A "CLOUD receiv'd Him out of their ſight"! Thus *David* prophetically ſpeaking of Him, ſays, "Exalt Ye *the Lord* OUR *God!* and "worſhip Him in his holy Mountain! "for *the Lord* OUR *God* is holy"!—and again He ſays, "Let GOD be exalted "*above* the Heavens! and his Glory *above* "all tne Earth"! and what was this Glory? but "his Gift of *the Holy Spirit* upon his Apoſtles and Diſciples"—— "his Gift of various *miraculous* Powers while He was here upon Earth", and

"his

" his remiſſion of Sins"! for as *Elijah*, at his return to Heaven, left his *Mantle* upon *Eliſha*: ſo, OUR LORD, when He was *receiv'd* up there, left his various Gifts of Miracles to Them, not making *one* Prophet, or Apoſtle, but MYRIADS, or TEN THOUSAND THOUSANDS of *Eliſhas*, much greater, more powerfull, and more effectual than *Him!*

But moreover——As the *Apoſtles* were looking intently on their MASTER, at his *Aſcenſion*, " Behold! two Men" [as St. Luke ſays in his Book of the Acts of the Apoſtles] " ſtood by Them in white ap-" parel," who alſo ſaid to Them, " Ye " Men of *Galilee!* Why ſtand Ye gazing " up into Heaven"? We ſee You are ſtrangely amaz'd and aſtoniſh'd! but Ye forget what He told You, ſaying, " I go " unto *my* FATHER and *your* FATHER: " and unto *my* GOD and *your* GOD"! Was it not on this account that He ſaid unto You, " I will *not* leave You comfortleſs! " *my* Peace I give unto You! *my* Peace " I leave with You! and hath not He promis'd You *the Comforter*, i. e. *the Holy Ghoſt?* and [therefore] " *this* JESUS " who is taken up from You into Heaven, " ſhall *ſo* come in like manner as Ye have " ſeen Him go into Heaven! i. e. with " the *Clouds* of Heaven, with Glory and

" great

" great Power, when He ſhall come in " [his own appointed] time to judge the " World in Righteouſneſs! for *the Father* " hath given all judgment unto *Him*"!— And do Ye not remember that He ſaid while He was with You, " All Power " is given unto *Me* both in *Heaven* and " *Earth*"!—Then the *Apoſtles* when They were come to Themſelves, " return'd to " *Jeruſalem* praiſing and bleſſing *the Lord*," and waiting for the *divine Gift*, i. e. " the coming of *the Holy Ghoſt*"! Well might the Royal Pſalmiſt, then, cry out with a prophetic joy " GOD is *gone up* with " a ſong of Triumph, and THE LORD " with the ſound of the Trumpet"! " with " a ſong of Triumph" indeed! as all the Heavenly Hoſts of Angels ſend up to GOD the thrice-Holy Hymn of Praiſes and Thankſgiving with their golden Harps, and never-ceaſing Voices! and as We have already ſhewn that He was *taken up* to a Throne *above* Cherubims and Seraphims ſo alſo " with the ſound of the Trumpet"! the *Arch-angel* plainly ſignifying beforehand his triumphal return into Heaven! nay even *the Holy Ghoſt*, [by the ſpirit of Prophecy to *David*] proclaims to the Heavenly Powers on high, with a commanding voice, ſaying, " Lift up your Gates, O " Ye Rulers! and be Ye lifted up Ye ever-

" laſting Doors! and THE KING OF GLORY
" ſhall come in"! And the [Heavenly]
Powers crying out, ſaid, " Who is this
KING OF GLORY"? Then ſaid THE SPIRIT,
" It is THE LORD *ſtrong* and *mighty*! even
" THE LORD *mighty in Battle*"! for HE
" hath overcome the great *Adverſary*
" and mighty *Warriour*, i. e. the *Devil*!
" *He* hath arm'd [Man] againſt his *Ty-*
" *ranny*, and quench'd all his fiery Darts
" that ſtruck at his Peace and Happineſs!
" *He* hath been nail'd to the *Croſs*, and
" taſted of Death [for all Mankind] but is
" *now* become *im*mortal, having taken with
" Him the ſpoils of *Hell*, [or the *Grave*]
" and being openly proclaim'd A CONQUEROR,
" is *riſen* from the Dead! and behold! He
" is *now* return'd with the loſt Sheep that
" were gone aſtray, [i. e. every faithfull
" *Jew* and *Gentile*] to feed them for ever
" in the Mountains, i. e. in all Heavenly
" Places"!—and, again, ſaith THE SPIRIT,
" It is THE LORD OF HOSTS! HE IS THE
" KING OF GLORY"! Then, The Heavenly
Powers, when They heard, " It is THE
" LORD OF HOSTS"! crying out with one
voice their uſual Hymn of *Praiſe*, *Bleſſing*,
Honour, and *Glory*, receiv'd Him with uni-
verſal Joy and Acclamations, and attended
Him to THE THRONE OF GLORY, where he
was ſo moſt deſervedly exalted!—Then was

fulfill'd

fullfill'd that which was ſpoken by [the Prophet] *David*, "THE LORD ſaid unto *my* LORD, "Sit THOU on my right Hand, un-"till I make thy Foes thy Footſtool"!

Wherefore [my Brethren! to conclude] From henceforth, let All *Hæretics*, who deny the *two* Natures in CHRIST be aſham'd! (for it is plain that the *Divine* Nature met for ever at the THRONE of MAJESTY) and let the *Catholic*, [or Univerſal] Church [of all true and ſincere Chriſtians for *Faith* and *Practice*] be glorify'd! Let our Lives and Converſations be ſo well-pleaſing in the ſight of CHRIST *our* GOD and KING, as that He may approve Us worthy to *aſcend* unto his holy Hill of *Sion*, even his *Eternal Kingdom* in *Heaven!* and, therefore, When We conſider his *Birth*, *Crucifixion*, *Reſurrection*, and *Aſcenſion*, let Us, in *our* turn, pay Him the juſt tribute of Praiſe and Thankſgiving for theſe moſt gracious Diſpenſations of his *Mercy!* that as *He* has bleſs'd and glorify'd *Us* through his own, peculiar Gifts, ſo ought *We* to endeavour to glorify *Him* thro' *our* zeal and diligence in all Good Works! that thus We may draw down upon Us the plentifull Gift of *the Holy Ghoſt!* Let us praiſe and honour *Him* by a due obedience to his Commands as the moſt perfect and exact Rules of Life! and let Us well conſider and remember holy David's Anſwers to his Queſtion in his 15th Pſalm, "*Lord!* Who ſhall

"dwell

" dwell in *thy* Tabernacle, or Who ſhall " *aſcend* unto *thy* holy Hill"? He anſwers, " Even He that leadeth an *un*corrupt Life, and " doeth the thing which is right, and " ſpeaketh the Truth from his Heart! In " whoſe eye a vile Perſon is deſpis'd, but " He honoureth Them that fear *the Lord*"! " Whoſo doeth theſe things, ſhall never " fall"! I beſeech You, therefore Brethren! Let Us learn to honour and reverence *Ourſelves*, that We may the better honour and reverence *our Lord* and *Maſter!* and having finiſh'd our Courſe with *Faith* and *Patience*, let Us endeavour to be thought worthy (thro' *his* Merits) to *aſcend* thoſe Manſions of Bliſs in Heaven, which He Himſelf is gone before to præpare for All Thoſe who love *Him* and keep his Commandments! To Whom, with the *Father* and the *Holy Ghoſt*, be aſcribed, as is moſt due, all *Honour*, *Praiſe*, and *Glory*, *Might*, *Majeſty*, *Dominion*, and Power, both now and for evermore! *Amen*.

F I N I S.

N. B. The Reader is deſired to correct a very material miſtake of The Preſs in the GOOD-FRIDAY *Sermon*, where, at page 21. line 14. " the RESURRECTION" ſhould be " the CROSS".—